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**Large Scale Solar Projects
Response to 10/17 Roundtable Inquires**

There are some efforts underway to streamline permitting for large renewable energy projects. The main one is the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) process, an effort by state and federal agencies to develop a habitat conservation plan that balances desert conservation and renewable energy development. Information is available on the DRECP website: <http://www.drecp.org/>.

In addition, the California County Planning Directors Association is working on Solar Energy Facility Guidance Document for local government permitting of large solar energy facilities. The first draft is found at:
<http://www.ccpda.org/en/model-sef-ordinance/139-october-21-2011-ccpda-model-sef-ordinance-meeting-information>

There was a proposed CEQA exemption that the legislature failed to adopt, that would have streamlined permitting for solar PV facilities on certain larger parcels. The proposal is found in SEC. 10, page 21, of the September 2, 2011 version of Senate Bill 618 (see: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>) However, the language was not included in the version of the bill that passed.